

AMENDMENT 2 NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE MAY 24, 1993CONTACTS

ACLU of Colorado: Nancy Solomon
(303) 861-2258, fax (303) 861-2269

CLIP: Mary Celeste
(303) 863-1711, pager (303) 392-4455

Lambda: Suzanne Goldberg
(212) 995-8585, fax (212) 995-2306

National ACLU: Phil Gutis
(212) 944-9800 X 410, fax (212) 869-9065

WHO: Jean E. Dubofsky, lead attorney of the legal team opposing Amendment 2, the anti-gay amendment to the state constitution passed by Colorado voters in the 1992 general election.

WHAT: Presents oral argument to support the injunction granted by Judge Jeffrey Bayless on January 15, 1993, that prevents the amendment from becoming effective until the Court rules on its constitutionality.

WHEN: Monday morning, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., May 24, 1993

WHERE: Colorado Supreme Court, 2 East 14th Ave., Denver, Colorado

ISSUE: In his decision, Judge Bayless stated that he granted the injunction because the plaintiffs have a good chance of winning their lawsuit, filed on November 12, 1992, challenging the amendment. He also said the State would have to prove why it has a compelling interest in the enforcement of Amendment 2. This is the principle of "strict scrutiny."

The Colorado Attorney General's office is asking the Colorado Supreme Court to set aside the preliminary injunction and Judge Bayless' insistence on strict scrutiny.

The legal team challenging the amendment is asking the Supreme Court to uphold the injunction and Judge Bayless' insistence on strict scrutiny.

The legal team was organized by the Colorado Legal Initiatives Project (CLIP) and includes attorneys in private practice as well as attorneys affiliated with the ACLU of Colorado, the National ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

QUOTES: "We hope that upon review of all the briefs and at the conclusion of oral arguments, the Supreme Court justices will uphold Judge Bayless' decision and keep the injunction in place," said Mary Celeste of CLIP.

"The very passage of Amendment 2 demonstrates widespread discrimination against gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. Such discrimination cries out for strict scrutiny," said James H. Joy, Executive Director of the ACLU of Colorado.

NOTE: Each side is permitted 30 minutes to present its argument. Ms. Dubofsky is sharing her time with Aspen's attorney.

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